

REMARKS

The present case is a continuation-in-part patent application of Serial No. 09/567,789, now U.S. Patent No. 6,736,313, which relates to encryption of input verification indicia, such as a PIN, entered by a customer via an indicia entry device. The input verification indicia is used to verify that the user has authority to use account information presented to pay for a transaction. The input verification indicia has been pre-selected to correspond to the account information for this verification.

The independent claims of the present invention require encryption of "account information," such as an account number, that is received by a card reader, which is not an indicia entry device.

Bonhert and Kaehler only disclose encryption of input verification indicia, namely a PIN, and not of account information like that claimed in the present invention. (See Bohnert, col. 6, ll. 60-63; and Kaehler, Abstract). In order to further clarify this distinction, Applicant has amended the independent claims to make clear that the card reader that receives the account information is not the indicia entry device, which receives input verification indicia from a user.

Applicant has added new claims 30-35, which are dependent on independent claims 1 and 14, and thus are allowable for the same reasons above. Claims 30-35 are supported by at least original claims 4-6, and thus a new search is not required.

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